Fits: to most domestic and pilgrim tourism

5222. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action plan to boost domestic tourism including pilgrim tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to give any concession to the Senior Citizens while promoting pilgrim tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The National Action Plan for Tourism envisages development of dmestic tourism, especially for the budget category, so as to ensure an affordable holiday for them. Accommodation facilities, and wayside amenities are provided at important pilgrim centres.

(c) and (d) Presently, discounts in domestic air fares by Indian Airlines and in room tariffs in ITDC Hotels to the extent of 50% are offered to Senior Citizens above 65 years in age. The discounts in ITDC Hotels are only during specified periods.

Gujarat Government's proposals for promotion of tourism

5223. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Government of Gujarat pending for approval with the Central Government for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, how many out of them have been approved so far; and

(c) what is the stage of consideration of the remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) All the proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat for development of tourism in the State, which were found complete in all respects have been sanctioned. During 1994-95, the Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned three schemes amounting to Rs. 21.19 lakhs for the development of tourism in Gujarat.

Proposal for International Airport at Aurangabad

5224. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up another International Airport at Aurangabad with a view to raduce the congestion at the Bombay International Airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Fair Complex at Aurangabad

5225. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a trade fair complex at Aurangabad in order to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Extension Work of Runway at Aurangabad Airport

5226. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of runway extension at Aurangabad Airport is still going on and if so, since when and what is the targeted date for its completion; and

(b) by when Airbus Flights are proposed to be started from this airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work on extension of runway to 7500 ft. at Aurangabad airport commenced in September, 1994 and is expected to be completed by September, 1995. Indian Airlines has plans to operate Airbus 320 aircraft on completion of runway expansion work and associated payment development work.

Expansion of Vayudoot Services in States

5227. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the cities and towns presently connected by Vayudoot service;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to connect some more important cities and towns of Orissa with the adjoining cities and towns of the neighbouring states of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh by Vayudoot service; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot presently operates to the following station:—

1. Calcutta
2. Cooch Behar
3. Bagdogra
4. Silchar
5. Lilabari
6. Dibrugarh
7. Guwahati
8. Agartala
9. Aizwal
10. Zero
11. Tezu
12. Dimapur
13. Shillong

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Diversion of East-West Airlines Flight

5228. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Indian Express' (Bombay) of May 25, 1994 regarding the diversion of East-West Airlines Madurai-Thiruvananthapuram - Bombay bound flight from its scheduled route of Kochi;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and under what circumstances, for what purpose and under whose orders, the flight was diverted from its scheduled route causing great inconvenience and harassment to the passengers, particularly women and children and disruption in the schedule of the flights;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the allegations made in this case; if so, what are the details of the inquiry and what action has been taken in pursuance thereof; and

(d) what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent occurrance of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.